



Montana Public Service Commission
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**PSC FULLY REIMBURSES STATE OF MONTANA FOR ITS COSTS
TO PARTICIPATE IN NORTHWESTERN CORP.'S BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING**

The state Public Service Commission yesterday reimbursed the State of Montana in full for the money extended to the agency by the Governor's office that allowed the PSC to effectively participate in the NorthWestern Corp. bankruptcy proceeding. The amount paid back to the state was \$354,685 for outside legal services and other out-of-pocket expenses. The PSC was able to reimburse the state because, as part of the bankruptcy settlement agreement the agency reached with NorthWestern, the company agreed to pay the PSC's bankruptcy costs upon NorthWestern's emergence from bankruptcy. The entire settlement agreement between NorthWestern, the PSC, and the Montana Consumer Counsel achieved major protections for NorthWestern's Montana customers.

NorthWestern, which provides electricity to more than 300,000 Montana customers and natural gas to about 157,000 Montana customers, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in September 2003. The company emerged from bankruptcy this week.

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